

Public Safety Commission

FIRE DEPARTMENT

August 17, 2020

Webex Meeting

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Ford called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Darnell Ford
Commissioner Anthony Mangiafico
Commissioner Phil Pessina
Commissioner Linda Salafia

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Meghan Carta

STAFF PRESENT:

Fire Chief Robert Kronenberger

STAFF ABSENT

PUBLIC PRESENT

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Commissioner Ford made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on July 20, 2020, Commissioner Mangiafico seconded, and all voted in favor to approve the minutes as presented.

4. **PUBLIC HEARING**

- None

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Letter from the Heslin family to say thank you for the 50th anniversary parade
- Letter of thanks from Westfield Fire for assistance with the Trolley Crossing Fire
- Letter received from a Wallingford resident with regards to Firefighter Mike Eylward. He assisted with tree removal/storm cleanup and was very thankful for Firefighter Eylward and couldn't say enough good things about him

6. MONTHLY REPORT

- Commissioner Ford asked about fire personnel morale – Chief Kronenberger stated that morale is currently high
 - A couple of firefighters suffered heat exhaustion during recent fires but have since recovered and are back to work

7. OLD BUSINESS

- COVID response:
 - Nothing new to report – only concern at this time is Wesleyan University & Middletown Schools once they resume
 - Commissioner Pessina asked if Wesleyan has addressed gatherings among students and Chief Kronenberger stated that the university plan seems to be solid – Commissioner Pessina asked for the commission to be kept updated

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Retirements & Hirings:
 - Lt. Bob Quale and the most senior firefighter Lou Luster retired
 - Two new recruit firefighters started today
 - Wallingford resident Michael Sheehan
 - Middletown resident John Kloc who was a Westfield Fire volunteer
 - Recruit class has been pushed back by two weeks – Fire Academy graduation set for December 18th
 - More movement expected towards the end of the year:
 - Deputy Fire Marshal Joe Salafia to retire October 3rd which will create an opening for his position as well as for an Assistant Fire Marshal
 - Chief Kronenberger stated that the goal is to always have a recruitment in place
 - Oral panels were just conducted for Battalion Chief & Lieutenant
 - Will soon be promoting (4) more Lieutenants due to a contract change – this will allow for a fire officer on each fire apparatus
 - Will be dropping from eleven firefighters to ten but increasing supervisory personnel by one per shift

9. Other Matters Not on the Agenda:

- None

10. Public Hearing Reopened – Other Matters

- None

11. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Monthly report given by Director Kronenberger:
 - No changes to report at this time
 - Purchasing has been increased based off CNR money for COVID related items in the event of another spike
 - It was reported by Director Kronenberger that FEMA will not reimburse for IT equipment, all school lunches but other funding tools are available for these

12. Monthly Summary of Action Taken by the Telecommunications Committee

- No meeting held for the month of August
 - Chief Kronenberger stated that there has been no Telecommunications issues on the fire side – new radio system working great

13. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Darnell entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Mangiafico so moved, Commissioner Pessina seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Ruffino

Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2020